

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 remain pending. Claims 28-53 are withdrawn.

In the Election Requirement, the Examiner has separated the specification into three “species” by separating FIGS. 1-13. Specifically, FIGS. 1-7 are alleged to be Species I. FIGS. 8-10 are alleged to be Species II. And, FIGS. 11-13 are alleged to be Species III.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Election Requirement. FIGS. 8-11 illustrate the same assembly 10 as FIGS. 1-7. The only difference is that a few components have been removed from FIGS. 8-11 to better visualize the interior components within the assembly 10. See paragraph 50 (“Turning now to FIG. 8, an isometric view of an assembled laser gain module 10 is shown with heat shield components 14 and 16, outer mount shields 40, and diode mounts 18 removed to give a more complete exterior view of an assembled gain module.”) FIGS. 9-10 likewise show the same assembly 10. See paragraph 52.

Similarly, FIG. 11 shows side views of the laser slab housing blocks 78 and 80, which are shown in FIG. 3. FIGS. 12 and 13 are simply cross-sections taken along lines 12-12 and 13-13 in FIG. 11. Thus, FIGS. 11-13 are also present so that the reader can better visualize the interior components in the assembly 10 in FIGS. 1-7.

Accordingly, it is difficult to understand how FIGS. 1-13 show three different species, as set forth in the Election Requirement, when they show the same assembly 10. Regardless, the Applicants note that the specification corresponding to FIGS. 12-13 discusses the heat or energy shields. In an effort to resolve the issue, the Applicants have withdrawn claims 28-53, which deal with these shields and the associated cooling effects.

Consequently, claims 1-27, which relate to the diode array and slab assemblies, remain pending. These claims are supported by the figures set forth above.

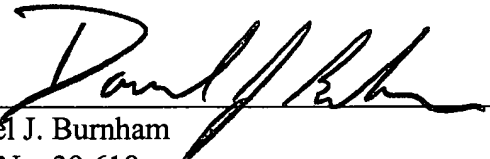
Conclusion

It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 20, 2005



Daniel J. Burnham
Reg. No. 39,618
Jenkins & Gilchrist
225 West Washington Street., Suite 2600
Chicago, Illinois 60606-3418
(312) 425-3900
Attorney for Applicants